

Hot. But soft I pray you; did King Richard then
Proclaime my brother Mortimer?
Heyre to the Crowne?

Nor. He did, my selfe did heare it.

Hot. Nay then I cannot blame his Cousin King,
That with'd him on the barren Mountaines star'd.
But shall it be, that you that set the Crowne
Vpon the head of this forgetfull man,
And for his sake, wore the detested blot
Of murderous subornation? Shall it be,
That you a world of curses vndergoe,
Being the Agents, or base second meanes,
The Cords, the Ladder, or the Hangman rather?
O pardon, if that I descend so low,
To shew the Line, and the Predicament
Wherein you range vnder this subtil King.
Shall it for shame, be spoken in these dayes,
Or fill vp Chronicles in time to come,
That men of your Nobility and Power,
Did gage them both in an vnuit behalfe
(As Both of you, God pardon it, haue done)
To put downe Richard, that sweet lovely Rose,
And plant this Thorne, this Canker Bullingbrooke?
And shall it in more shame be further spoken,
That you are fool'd, discarded, and shooke off
By him, for whom these shames ye vnderwent?
No: yet time serues, wherein you may redeeme
Your banish'd Honors, and restore your selues
Into the good Thoughts of the world againe.
Reuenge the geering and disdain'd contempt
Of this proud King, who studies day and night
To answer all the Debt he owes vnto you,
Euen with the bloody Payment of your deaths:
Therefore I say—

Nor. Peace Cousin, say no more.

And now I will vnclasp a Secret booke,
And to your quicke conceyning Discontents,
Ile reade you Matter, deepe and dangerous,
As full of perill and aduenturous Spirit,
As to o're-walke a Current, roaring loud
On the vnstedfast footing of a Speare.

Hot. If he fall in, good night, or sinke or swimme:
Send danger from the East vnto the West,
So Honor crosse it from the North to South,
And let them grapple: The blood more stirres
To rowze a Lyon, then to start a Hare.

Nor. Imagination of some great exploit,
Drives him beyond the bounds of Patience.

Hot. By heauen, me thinkes it were an easie leap,
To plucke bright Honor from the pale-fac'd Moone,
Or diue into the bottome of the deepe,
Where Fadome-line could neuer rouch the ground,
And plucke vp drowned Honor by the Lockes:
So he that doth redeeme her thence, might weare
Without Co-riuall, all her Dignities:
But out vpon this halfe-fac'd Fellowship.

Nor. He apprehends a World of Figures here,
But not the forme of what he should attend:
Good Cousin giue me audience for a while,
And list to me.

Hot. I cry you mercy.

Nor. Those same Noble Scottes
That are your Prisoners.

Hot. Ile keepe them all.

By heauen, he shall not haue a Scot of them:
No, if a Scot would saue his Soule, he shall not.

Ile keepe them, by this Hand.

Nor. You start away,
And lend no eare vnto my purposes.
Those Prisoners you shall keepe.

Hot. Nay, I will; that's flat:

He said, he would not ransom Mortimer:
Forbad my tongue to speake of Mortimer.
But I will finde him when he lyes asleepe,
And in his eare, Ile holla Mortimer.
Nay, Ile haue a Starling shall be taught to speake
Nothing but Mortimer, and giue it him,
To keepe his anger still in motion.

Nor. Heare you Cousin: a word.

Hot. All studies heere I solemnly desie,
Saue how to gall and pinch this Bullingbrooke,
And that same Sword and Buckler Prince of Wales.
But that I thinke his Father loues him not,
And would be glad he mer with some mischance,
I would haue poyson'd him with a pot of Ale.

Nor. Farewell Kinsman: Ile talke to you

When you are better temper'd to attend.

Nor. Why what a Waspe-tongu'd & impatient foole
Art thou, to breake into this Woman's mood,
Tying thine eare to no tongue but thine owne?

Hot. Why look you, I am whipt & scourg'd with rods,
Netled, and stung with Pismires, when I heare
Of this vile Politician Bullingbrooke.

In Richards time: What de'ye call the place?
A plague vpon't, it is in Gloucestershire:

'Twas, where the madcap Duke his Vncle kept,
His Vncle Yorke, where I first bow'd my knee
Vnto this King of Smiles, this Bullingbrooke:

When you and he came backe from Ravenspurgh.

Nor. At Barkley Castle.

Hot. You say true:

Why what a caudie deale of curtesie,
This fawning Grey-bond then did proffer me,
Looke when his infant Fortune came to age,
And gentle Harry Percy, and kinde Cousin:
O, the Diuell take such Couzeners, God forgive me,
Good Vncle tell your tale, for I haue done.

Nor. Nay, if you haue not, too't againe,
Wee'l stay your leysure.

Hot. I haue done insooth.

Nor. Then once more to your Scottish Prisoners,
Deliver them vp without their ranome straight,
And make the Douglas sonne your onely meane
For powres in Scotland: which for diuers reasons
Which I shall send you written, be assur'd
Will easily be granted you, my Lord.

Your Sonne in Scotland being thus impl'y'd,
Shall secretly into the bosome creepe
Of that same noble Prelate, well belou'd,
The Archbishop.

Hot. Of Yorke, is't not?

Nor. True, who beares hard
His Brothers death at Briflow, the Lord Scroope.

I speake not this in estimation,
As what I thinke might be, but what I know
Is ruminated, plotted, and set downe,
And onely staves but to behold the face
Of that occasion that shall bring it on.

Hot. I smell it:

Vpon my life, it will do wondrous well.

Nor. Before the game's a-foot, thou shalt let it slip.

Hot. Why, it cannot choofe but be a Noble plot,

And

And then the power of Scotland, and of Yorke
To ioyne with Mortimer, Ha.

Nor. And so they shall.

Hot. Infait it is exceedingly well aym'd.

Nor. And 'tis no little reason bids vs speed.

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ding in the stable.

1. Car. Nay soft I pray ye, I know a trick worth two
of that.

Gad. I prethee lend me thine.

2. Car. I, when, canst tell? Lend mee thy Lanthorne
(quoth a) marry Ile see thee hang'd first.

Gad. Sirra Carrier: What time do you mean to come
to London?

2. Car. Time enough to goe to bed with a Candle, I
warrant thee. Come neighbour Mugges, wee'll call vp
the Gentlemen, they will along with company, for they
haue great charge.

Enter Chamberlaine.

Gad. What ho, Chamberlaine?

Cham. At hand quoth Pick-purse.

Gad. That's euen as faire, as at hand quoth the Cham-
berlaine: For ibbu' variet no more from picking of Pur-
ses; then giuing direction, doth from labouring. Thou
lay'st the plot, how?

Cham. Good morrow Master Gad-Hill, it holds cur-
rant that I told you yesternight, There's a Franklin in the
wilds of Kent, hath brought three hundred Markes with
him in Gold: I heard him tell it to one of his godpishy last
night at Supper; a kinde of Auditor, one that hath abun-
dant of charge too (God knowes what) they are vp al-
ready, and call for Egges and Butter. They will away
precently.

Gad. Sirra, if they meete not with S. Nicholas Clarke,
Ile giue thee this necke.

Cham. No, Ile none of it: I prythee keep that for the
Hangman, for I know thou worships't S. Nicholas as tru-
ly as a man of falshood may.

Gad. What talkest thou to me of the Hangman? If I
hang, Ile make a fat payre of Gallows. For, if I hang,
old Sir Iohn hangs with mee, and thou know'st hee's no
Strawling. Tut, there are other Troians that y dream't
not of, the which (for sport sake) are content to doe the
Profession some grace; that would (if matters should bee
look'd into) for their owne Credit sake, make all Whole.

I am ioyned with no Foot-land-Rakers, no Long-staffe
six-penny Strikers, none of these mad Mustachio-purple-
h'd-Maltwormes, but with Nobility, and Tranquillie;
Bourgomasters, and great Oneyers, such as can holde in,
such as will strike sooner then speake; and speake sooner
then drinke, and drinke sooner then pray: and yet Ile,
for they pray continually vnto their Saint the Common-
wealth; or rather, not to pray to her, but prey on her: for
they ride vp & downe on her, and make hit their Boots.

Cham. What, the Commonwealth their Bootes? Will
she hold our water in foule way?

Gad. She will, she will; Iustice hath liquor'd her. We
steale as in a Castle, cocksure: we haue the receipt of Fern-
seede, we walke inuisible.

Cham. Nay, I thinke rather, you are more beholding
to the Night, then to the Fernseed, for your walking in-
uisible.

Gad. Giue me thy hand.

Thou shalt haue a share in our purpose,

As I am a true man.

Cham. Nay, rather let mee haue it, as you are a false
Theefe.

Gad. Goetoo: Homo is a common name to all men.
Bid the Ostler bring the Gelding out of the stable. Fare-
well, ye muddy Knaue.

Exit.

Enter Gads-hill.

Gad. Good-morrow Carriers. What's a clocke?

Car. I thinke it be two a clocke.

Gad. I prethee lend me thy Lanthorne to see my Gel-

ding in the stable.

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